

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Grant & Per Diem National Office

Webinar for Operational GPD Grantees
November 9, 2021

Recording Link: <https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/jdr.php?RCID=d9b6edcdd89b0bb0287c163aaa8b60d5>

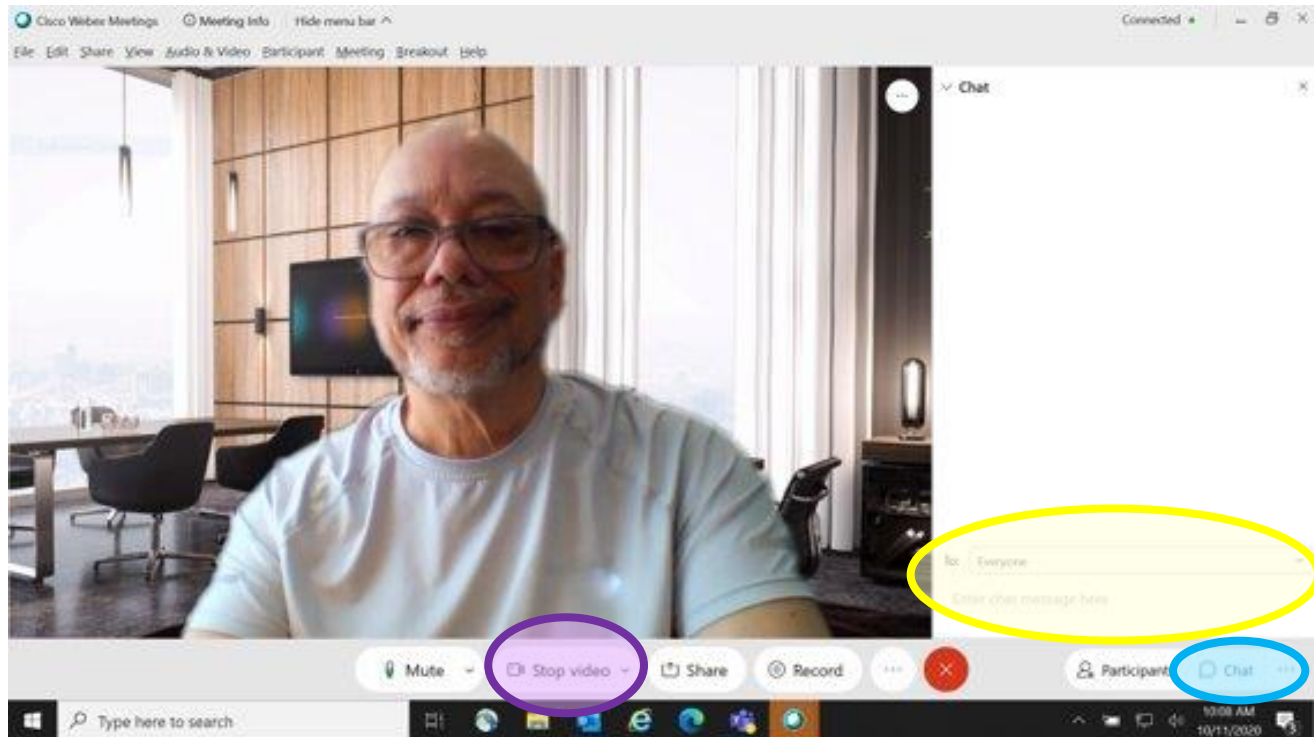
Password: Homeless1!



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VIEWING THROUGH WEBEX







AGENDA

Agenda



- Announcements
- COVID-19 Updates- Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL
- Office of Business Oversight
- Deputy Director's Topics
- Viola White-Douglas MSW, LCSW
- Change of Scope- Janine Griggs MSW, LICSW
- Director's Moments/Special Announcement





Mark your calendar
and join us

NEXT MEETING

- December Operational Webinar is **cancelled**
- Next Operational Webinar January 11, 2022 @ 2pm eastern

COVID-19 Updates

Jillian Weber, PhD, RN, CNL

Homeless PACT National Program Manager | COVID-19 Response Team

VHA Homeless Programs Office

- **COVID-19 booster doses**

- Purpose of booster shot is to “boost” antibody protection when it has decreased over time.
- Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen/J&J all have EUA
- Who is eligible?
 - Pfizer and Moderna: 6 months post 2nd vaccine dose
 - 65+
 - 18+ and reside in long-term care setting
 - 18+ with underlying [medical conditions](#)
 - 18+ and who live or work in high-risk setting (e.g., homeless shelters, correctional facilities, schools)
 - Janssen/J&J: 2 months post vaccine
 - 18+
- Where to get booster?
 - No cost
 - Both within VA and outside locations
 - [Find VA locations](#)
 - Find COVID-19 Vaccines: [Vaccines.gov](#)

- **Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products**
 - Any currently FDA-approved or FDA authorized COVID-19 vaccine can be used when indicated.
 - No product preference.
 - In general, primary series and additional primary doses should be with the same vaccine product. However, per CDC the use of mix and match [booster doses](#) is acceptable.
- **Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines**
 - COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines.
 - Consider [COVID-19 vaccines and influenza](#)

- **COVID-19 Vaccine SAVE LIVES Act**

- Non-healthcare eligible Veterans, spouses, and caregivers all eligible for booster doses.
- VA expanding COVID-19 vaccinations for some 12–17-year-old under SAVE LIVES Act.
 - Only Pfizer approved – not all VAMCs have Pfizer currently
 - Check local VAMCs for availability
 - Who is eligible?
 - Adolescent beneficiaries 12-17 of CHAMPVA
 - Veteran caregivers ages 12-17 (family member or friend)
 - » Provides care to Veteran
 - » Helps Veteran with personal needs like feeding, bathing, dressing
 - » Helps Veteran with tasks like shopping or transportation
 - Adolescents and parent/guardian must provide consent



OFFICE OF BUSINESS OVERSIGHT

- **New Federal Contractors:**
 - Trilogy, RMA & Associates & BDO
- **Upcoming Fiscal Reviews:**
 - Dignity's Alcove, Inc. – November 15-19, 2021
 - Volunteers of America Los Angeles – November 15-19, 2021
 - American GI Forum National Veterans Outreach Program – December 7-9, 2021
 - Casa Del Peregrino Aguadilla, Inc. – December 13-17, 2021
 - Room in the Inn, Inc. – January 4-6, 2022
 - Steps House, Inc. – January 4-6, 2022
 - Vietnam Veterans of San Diego, Inc. – January 4-6, 2022
 - Community Action North Bay – January 17-19, 2022
 - Home of the Brave – January 17-19, 2022
 - Volunteers of America Florida, Inc. – January 17-19, 2022
 - The Transition House, Inc. – January 20-21, 2022
- **SF-425's due on 3/31/2022**
 - Potential Fillable Form coming soon
 - Submit supporting documents with SF-425
- **GPD Cost Principles training Allowable and Unallowable Costs Training**
 - [Play recording](#) (50 min)
 - Recording password: 7Kqgsfr@



GPD CAPITAL GRANT NOFO

- On September 3, 2021, GPD published a Capital grant NOFO on www.Grants.gov
- Approximately \$75 million available
 - Renovation, acquisition or construction of GPD transitional housing
 - To improve personal safety for Veterans,
 - Reduce risks associated with close quarters living and
 - Increase the availability of individual unit style transitional housing.
- Eligible applicants are current GPD Per Diem Only (PDO) transitional housing recipients
- Technical Assistance webinar posted on [GPD Website](#)

NEW! Capital Notice Of Funding Opportunity:

On September 3, 2021, GPD published a Capital grant NOFO on Grants.gov announcing the availability of approximately \$75 million for the renovation, acquisition or construction of GPD transitional housing to improve personal safety for Veterans, reduce risks associated with close quarters living and increase the availability of individual unit style transitional housing. For purposes of this NOFO, eligible applicants are current GPD Per Diem Only (PDO) transitional housing grantees.

[Notice Of Funding Opportunity](#) 📄

[Capital Grant NOFO Overview Webinar](#) 📺

[Capital NOFO FAQs](#)

[📄 Budget Template Sample](#)

[📄 VA Letter of Coordination Sample](#) 📄

Additional Resources, Forms & Information:

[SmartSimple Website](#)

[GPD General Terms and Conditions of Award](#) 📄 (updated March 2021)

[Application for Federal Assistance \(SF-424\)](#) 📄

[OMB Assurances SF-424B SF42D](#) 📄 (for reference only)

(the SF-424 requires Adobe Reader 8. For best results, do not open the form in your web browser. Save locally to your computer before opening. For further assistance, please visit <https://helpx.adobe.com/ca/acrobat/kb/cant-open-pdf.html>)

Questions: GPDGrants@va.gov

**Applications due
December 6, 2021, by
4pm eastern**



CASE MANAGEMENT GRANTS

- Case Management Tool v3.0 emailed to grantee SmartSimple points of contact October 22, 2021
- Closeout of 2019 Case Management grant requires submission of an SF-425 to GPD425@va.gov
- Quarterly fiscal reporting for Case Management grants will occur through SmartSimple
 - Beginning with Q1, FY 2022
 - First submission January 2022 which is based on costs incurred Oct-Dec 2021
 - [How-To Quick Guide](#) developed to walk grantees through this requirement
- Critical Time Intervention (CTI) QUERI
 - CTI is a time-limited evidence-based case management practice
 - Training and technical assistance tailored for case managers and supervisors
 - 32 sites; 7 VISNs



GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

- Grantees (to include program leadership) **must** have regular discussions with their GPD liaison regarding performance
 - **At least quarterly**, Liaisons must share data regarding performance metrics on permanent housing, reducing negative exits, & employment
 - Performance should be compared to goals for each grant type (stated in NOFO)
 - Discuss average programmatic LOS
 - Length of stay should be driven by clinical need, as evidenced by progress toward the Veterans goals in their individual service plan
 - Discuss average occupancy
 - If utilization rate is low, are there short-term reasons (e.g., COVID, damage to portion of the facility) or is it a reflection of changing needs in the community
- Option year renewals occurred for all grantees that signed updated agreements
- In FY 2022, GPD National Office will resume reviews looking at the performance-related items above



GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

- Decrease in percentage of exits to Permanent Housing from FY 2020 to FY 2021

Model	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Transition in Place	82%	79%
Bridge	75%	72%
Low Demand	62%	57%
Hospital to Housing	69%	63%
Clinical Treatment	63%	59%
Service Intensive	69%	65%



GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

- Increase in negative exits, despite additional flexibility regarding program discharge protocols

Model	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Transition in Place	8%	11%
Bridge	16%	16%
Low Demand	24%	25%
Hospital to Housing	18%	22%
Clinical Treatment	22%	26%
Service Intensive	18%	22%



GRANTEE PERFORMANCE

- Decrease in employment at exit, except for Transition in Place

Model	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Transition in Place	73%	74%
Clinical Treatment	63%	50%
Service Intensive	61%	58%



CHANGE OF SCOPE

38CFR61.62 Program Changes

(a) Except as provided in [paragraphs \(b\)](#) through [\(d\)](#) of this section, a recipient may not make any significant changes to a project for which a grant has been awarded **without prior written approval from the VA National Grant and Per Diem Program Office**. Significant changes include, but are not limited to, a change in the recipient, a change in the project site (including relocating, adding an annex, a branch, or other expansion), additions or deletions of activities, shifts of funds from one approved type of activity to another, and a change in the category of participants to be served.

(b) Recipients of grants involving both construction and non-construction projects must receive prior written approval from the VA National Grant and Per Diem Program Office for cumulative transfers among direct cost categories which exceed or are expected to exceed 10 percent of the current total approved budget.



CHANGE OF SCOPE

(c) Recipients of grants for projects involving both construction and non-construction who are state or local governments must receive prior written approval from the VA National Grant and Per Diem Program Office for any budget revision which would transfer funds between non-construction and construction categories.

(d) Approval for changes is contingent upon the application ranking remaining high enough after the approved change to have been competitively selected for funding in the year the application was selected.

(e) Any changes to an approved program must be fully documented in the recipient's records.



CHANGE OF SCOPE

- Changes of scope should be discussed with the GPD liaison and the VAMC prior to submission to our office
- Changes of scope that are clear and concise will likely result in a quicker response from our office as they will involve less consultation about the request with the grantee and/or VAMC
- Please refer to Grant Recipient Guides on our [GPD Provider webpage](#) for more detailed information on how to write and request a change of scope.
- For a more detailed presentation on this topic, please review the February Operational Provider call (starts at 32:15):
Recording Link: [VA WebEx Enterprise Site - Replay Recorded Meeting](#)
Password: Homeless1!



GPD REGULATIONS AND GUIDES

Grant and Per Diem Program: Provider Website - VA Homeless Programs

GPD Regulations and Guides

GPD General Terms and Conditions of Award

version date May 2020

GPD Regulations and Guides

Transitional Housing Grant Recipient Guide 📄 (September 2021) ←
Capital Grant Recipient Guide 📄 (September 2021)
Case Management Grant Recipient Guide 📄 (September 2021)
GPD General Terms and Conditions of Award 📄 (May 2020) ←
GPD Regulations (38 CFR Part 61)
Case Management Regulations (June 2018)
Final Rule - Veteran Definition and TIP Payment 📄 (November 2017)

SmartSimple Grants Management System

NEW How-to: Add or Update Contacts 📄
NEW How-to: Case Management Quarterly Report 📄
How-to: Submit a Per Diem Rate **Modification** 📄 (increase/decrease)
How-to: Submit an **Initial** Per Diem Rate Request 📄
How-to: Retrieve Executed Grant Agreements 📄
How-to: Retrieve Executed Option Year Agreements 📄
How-to: Upload Signed Option Year Grant Agreement 📄
How-to: Upload Signed Case Management, Capital, Special Need Grant Agreements 📄

Capital NOFO (ARP) 📄 published 9/3/2021
Capital NOFO (CARES Act) 📄 published 3/11/2021
Special Need NOFO 📄 published 3/4/2021
Case Management NOFO 📄 published 12/17/2020
Transition In Place (TIP) 📄 NOFO published 2/18/2020
Per Diem Only (PDO) NOFO 📄 published 12/30/2019



GPD REGULATIONS AND GUIDES

Racial Equity

Black, Indigenous, People of Color are overrepresented in the homeless system as a proportion of their populations. The GPD National Program Office encourages grantees to recognize racial disparities and work towards creating a culture of racial equity.

FY 2021 PDO and FY 2022 SN grant applications contained a section outlining the grantee's plan to focus on culturally competent staff development. Training activities should be developed to assist grantee staff with providing relevant services to Veterans impacted by racial inequity. If grantees have any concerns or questions about implementing a racial equity staff development plan, please reach out to the GPD liaison.

You may find the following resources helpful:

- National Alliance to End Homelessness: [**Racial Equity Network Toolkit**](#)
- HUD Exchange: [**Racial Equity Resources**](#)



PER DIEM ONLY NOFA AND SPECIAL NEEDS NOFO

Ability—In approximately 500 words, describe the organization's staff development plan to help staff gain and maintain the knowledge, skills and abilities to provide culturally competent and relevant related services to people impacted by racial inequity. Include details on how staff will participate in specific training activities.

- Leadership should ensure that staff providing services have read the grant and understand expectations for service delivery
- Leadership should ensure staff are trained as outlined in the grant
- If the grantee is not following what is written in the grant, corrective action may be a possibility



VETERANS GRANT PROGRAM GRANT AGREEMENT

Nondiscrimination Policies

The recipient must execute the project (e.g., productions, workshops, programs, etc.) in accordance with the following laws, where applicable.

- **Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**, as amended, provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI also extends protection to persons with limited English proficiency (42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000d et seq.).
- **Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex or blindness, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance (20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 and Sec. 1684 et seq.).
- **Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**, as amended, provides that no otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States, shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794).
- **The Age Discrimination Act of 1975** provides that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance (42 U.S.C. Sec. 6101 et seq.).
- **The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990** (ADA), as amended prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in employment (Title I), state and local government services (Title II), places of public accommodation and commercial facilities (Title III) (42 U.S.C. Sections 12101-12213).



CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS: WWW.ECFR.GOV

[eCFR :: 38 CFR Part 18 -- Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs - Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#)

§ 18.1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to effectuate the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (hereafter referred to as the *Act*) to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[[29 FR 19301](#), Dec. 31, 1964. Redesignated at [45 FR 63268](#), Sept. 24, 1980]



[eCFR :: 38 CFR Part 61 -- VA Homeless Providers Grant and per Diem Program](#)

Nonprofit organization means a private organization, no part of the net earnings of which may inure to the benefit of any member, founder, contributor, or individual. The organization must be recognized as a section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization by the United States Internal Revenue Service, and meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Have a voluntary board;
- (2) Have a functioning accounting system that is operated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or designate an entity to maintain such a functioning accounting system; and
- (3) Practice nondiscrimination in the provision of supportive housing and supportive services assistance.



DIRECTOR'S MOMENT

Wishing you a
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
& Holiday Season

- Care for Homeless Veterans and Families
- Self- care for your staff



DIRECTOR'S MOMENT

